

identity of the bird was later confirmed by examining a museum skin of the species at BNHS by one of us (VRA).

The Kashmir redbreasted flycatcher is known to breed in Kashmir and winter in Sri Lanka. Hitherto it has been reported only from North India and Secunderabad on passage in both directions (Com-

pact HANDBOOK). As the sighting of the species has been in December, it could have been wintering in this area, as it has been recorded on passage only during the months of September, October and later in March and April.

May 28, 1991

S. KARTHIKEYAN  
VIDYA R. ATHREYA

## 21. SOUTHERN ASHY WREN-WARBLER *PRINIA SOCIALIS SOCIALIS* SYKES IN PT. CALIMERE WILDLIFE SANCTUARY, TAMIL NADU

The status of the southern ashy wren-warbler *Prinia socialis socialis* had been stated by Ali and Ripley (1983, HANDBOOK OF THE BIRDS OF INDIA AND PAKISTAN) as a locally common, resident species. It is distributed unevenly in the entire peninsula south of the Narmada river and southern Bihar. At Pt. Calimere Wildlife Sanctuary, Tamil Nadu, there is no resident warbler species except for the tailor bird *Orthotomus sutorius*. The ashy wren-warbler is only the second resident warbler species from the Sanctuary. Though this species was recorded from the nearby Vedaranyam town (just 6 km away from the Sanctuary) on the north, and to the

west in the Muthupet Reserve Forest (about 30 km away), it was not recorded during the 12 year study on the avifauna of the Sanctuary. A pair of the species was first sighted on 4 February 1991 in a small isolated patch of scrub jungle along the coast. A total of six birds were caught and ringed in the same month, of which three were juveniles. The record of this species is an addition to the avifauna of the Pt. Calimere Wildlife Sanctuary.

June 6, 1991

S. BALACHANDRAN  
LIMA ROSALIND

## 22. SIGHTING OF AN INDIAN BLUE CHAT *ERITHACUS BRUNNEUS* (HODGSON) AT RAIPUR, MADHYA PRADESH

On 13 April 1991 an Indian blue chat *Erithacus brunneus* (Hodgson) was seen probing amongst dense bushes in our garden in Raipur, Chhattisgarh region of Madhya Pradesh. The bird was there the following day. There are no earlier records of this

chat from Madhya Pradesh and these sightings thus form an addition to the bird list of the state.

September 18, 1991

AJIT BHAROS

## 23. DEW BATHING BY PURPLERUMPED SUNBIRD *NECTARINIA ZEYLONICA* (LINN.)

During the first week of April 1991, a pair of purplerumped sunbirds *Nectarinia zeylonica* regularly visited our office backyard at Vedaranyam to dew bathe on a banana tree *Musa paradisiaca*. Early morning, the birds would one by one slide over the wet leaf surface and have their 'bath'. They repeated this behaviour three or four times. After the bath they went to a nearby *Moringa oleifera* tree where they ruffled their feathers and preened. Breger (1967, 1968, 1972) described the dew bathing behaviour in several species of *Empidonax* flycatchers and

Kirtland's warbler *Dendroica kirtlandii*. Verbeek (1962) reported dew bathing by the blackcapped chickadee *Parus atricapillus*, goldencrowned kinglet *Regulus satrapa*, red-eyed (MZ) Vireo *Vireo olivaceus*, song sparrow *Zonotrichia melodia*, and three species of the purplerumped sunbird is an interesting record.

June 26, 1991

V. NATARAJAN  
P. BALASUBRAMANIAN